

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COMMERCIAL

PARALLEL PACIFIC COD SEASON OPENS DECEMBER 27

EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-E-11-11

The Prince William Sound (PWS) parallel Pacific cod season will open at 12:00 noon December 27, 2011. Unless otherwise addressed in state regulation, the season dates and gear restrictions will coincide with those established by NMFS for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Fishermen participating in the parallel season must:

- 1) possess a 2011 PWS Non-exclusive Groundfish Area Registration from ADF&G;
- 2) use a NMFS-approved vessel monitoring system (VMS) as described at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/ak_faqs.html and required aboard vessels fishing pot or longline gear in parallel Pacific cod fisheries and;
- 3) employ the seabird avoidance measures required when fishing longline gear in certain areas by 5 AAC 28.055 (except the inside district of PWS) and described at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seabirds/guide.htm>.

Regulations protecting two Steller sea lion rookeries within PWS remain in effect. Directed fishing for all groundfish species is closed in waters within 3 nautical miles of Seal Rocks (60° 09.78' N. lat., 146° 50.30' W. long.); and Wooded Island (Fish Island) (59° 52.90' N. lat., 147° 20.65' W. long.).

Bycatch, in aggregate, may not exceed 20% by weight of the directed groundfish species aboard a vessel. Regulation 5 AAC 28.265 requires that all rockfish be retained and any rockfish in excess of the 10% bycatch allowance be reported as a bycatch overage on a fish ticket with the proceeds surrendered to the state. Lingcod may be retained as bycatch up to 20 percent of the directed groundfish species on board a vessel provided total bycatch does not exceed the 20% aggregate level. Retained lingcod must measure at least 35 inches from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. All lingcod must be delivered with the head attached and with the vent and one-inch area forward of the vent intact as evidence of gender.

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